

BIRKHEAD WILDERNESS ROUTE

The Birkhead Wilderness Route features the Uwharrie Mountains, considered

by some experts to be the oldest mountains in North America. This byway is specifically named after the Birkhead Mountains



Baled hay along the Birkhead Wilderness Route

Wilderness, a remote section of the Uwharrie National Forest covering 4,800 acres in southern Randolph County. The rugged area offers a more remote experience with fewer visitor amenities than other sections of the Uwharrie National Forest.

The Birkhead Wilderness Route begins along the northern reaches of the Uwharrie Mountains at the intersection of High Pines Church Road (S.R. 1143) and Hopewell Friends Road (S.R. 1142) in Randolph County. Traveling south along the long and winding High Pines Church Road, notice that the valley is bordered on both sides by the Uwharrie National Forest. After 9.4 miles, the byway reaches the crossroads community of Lassiter Mill.

Several hiking trails can be accessed within the vicinity of Lassiter Mill. The

Birkhead Mountain, Robbins Branch and Hannah's Creek trails wind through 10

miles of the wilderness area. Evidence of pioneer settlement — old homesteads, crumbling chimneys and gold mining activity

— can still be seen here. To reach the trailhead of Robbins Branch Trail, turn right onto Lassiter Mill Road (S.R. 1107). Parking and the trailhead are on the right, two miles north of the crossroads.

From Lassiter Mill, follow High Pines Church Road another 4.5 miles to continue along the byway until the route ends at New Hope Church Road (S.R. 1181).



***Length: 14 miles
Drive Time: 25 minutes
County: Randolph***